

# Public Health Dimensions of Substance Use

**Dr. Clara H. Fuderanan**

*Head, Health Systems Development and Management Support Unit,  
Dangerous Drugs Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program  
Department of Health*



**NATIONAL SUBSTANCE USE SCIENCE POLICY AND INFORMATION FORUM**

**Substance Use in the Philippines: Governance, Research, and Practice**

# Key Problems to be Addressed



Implementation of proper and effective **community-based drug rehabilitation programs (CBDRP)**



Integration of CDDR into the **mental health program**



**Tuberculosis management and treatment for PWUDs** in various treatment settings



Enhance the capacities and attitudes of **health and service providers** to ensure quality and empathic care for PWUDs



Support and funding for **research areas** related to substance use

# Actionable Points for the Government

## SUPPORT

- Support and monitor existing CBDRPs
- Proper management and treatment of TB among the PWUD population in Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers (DATRC)

## STRENGTHEN

- Conduct Health Needs Assessment (HNA) for better CBDRP implementation
- Strengthen, evaluate, and identify the best practices of CBDRPs to promote and ensure effective implementation
- Strengthen coordination between DATRCs and TB DOTS facilities to ensure treatment compliance without compromising any DATRC protocols

# Actionable Points for the Government



## ALLOCATE RESOURCES

- Capacity building activities for CBDRP implementers
- Provide training to DATRC staff in managing TB cases
- Include PWUDs as beneficiaries of free treatment from TB DOTS
- Increase campaign in raising awareness on drug use and dependence among health and service providers (HSPs) to promote positive and accepting attitudes towards PWUDs
- Provide training to HSPs to enhance their knowledge and comfort in caring for PWUDs

# Actionable Points for the Government



## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop comprehensive guidelines for CBDRPs
- Integration of public health perspectives including mental health in drug abuse interventions of non-health sectors
- Health financing and social health insurance coverage for CBDRP
- Create guidelines in the management of TB among PWUDs in different treatment settings
- Integration of DATRCs in the TB DOTS network either as providing or referring facility

# Policy Research Gaps

- **Examine the multi-level consequences of substance use**
- **Develop tools to measure substance use prevalence and patterns**
- **Develop methodology and tools to evaluate the effectiveness of substance use prevention approaches and interventions**
- **Examine the various factors in the successful implementation of preventive and rehabilitative strategies**

# Policy Research Gaps

- Investigate the prevalence of TB among PWUDs in different treatment settings
- Determine best practices on the case handling and management of TB among PWUDs
- Expand the analysis of drug supply and supply reduction strategies
- Evaluate the different drug demand and supply reduction policies